DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 341 978 CS 213 075

AUTHOR	Russell, David L.
TITLE	Literature for Children: A Short Introduction.
REPORT NO	ISBN-0-8013-0673-6
PUB DATE	91
NOTE	178p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Order Dept., Addison-Wesley, 1 Jacob Way, Reading, MA 01867 ($19.50).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Guides - Classroom Use - Teaching Guides (For Teacher) (052)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Adolescent Literature; Biographies; *Books; *Childrens Literature; Elementary Education; Fantasy; Fiction; Folk Culture; Higher Education; Junior High Schools; *Literary Criticism; Picture Books; Poetry
IDENTIFIERS	*Genre Studies

ABSTRACT

A concise yet comprehensive survey of works written for young people from infancy through early adolescence, this book provides both students of children's literature and the general reader with an introduction to the study of the field. The book is divided into two parts, the first addressing the contexts within which literature for young people is viewed (including a brief historical survey, theories of child development, and instructional methods of sharing literature) and the second examining the principle literary genres and the necessary critical approaches to reach and evaluate literature. Chapters of the book are: (1) "The History of Children's Literature"; (2) "Children and Literature"; (3) "The Picture Storybook"; (4) "Alphabet, Counting, and Concept Books"; (5) "Folk Literature"; (6) "Mother Goose Rhymes"; (7) "Poetry"; (8) "The Nature of Fiction"; (9) "Fantasy"; (10) "Realistic Fiction"; (11) "Biography"; and (12) "Informational Books." Most chapters include a bibliography of critical studies pertaining to the literary type or genre discussed in the chapter, and most also contain selected bibliographies of relevant books. Appendixes list winners of American and international children's book awards. (SR)

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